



January 23, 2007

The Honorable Olympia Snowe  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
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**Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.**  
President

Dear Senator Snowe:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for your sustained leadership on the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act. This bill will benefit every American and directly improve the lives of those concerned about the potential misuse of their genetic information in health insurance and employment decisions. The AAMC represents 125 accredited U.S. medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 68 Department of Veterans Affairs' medical centers; and 96 academic and scientific societies.

The current lack of federal legal protections against the misuse of genetic information has restricted individuals' access to health information and clinical trials. Fear of the misuse of genetic information limits patients' access to genetic tests. Additionally, refusal to utilize effective genetic tests hinders the ability of individuals to learn important medical information, which they could use to manage their health.

The AAMC is concerned that many Americans will be discouraged from participating in vital medical research for fear of discrimination by employers or health insurance providers who improperly use genetic information. This lack of participation has a negative impact on researchers, clinicians, and industry, slowing the research and development process for targeted drugs and treatments. Accordingly, protections are needed to prevent this information from being used inappropriately. To promote fully the use of genetic information and personalized medicine in healthcare, Congress must pass this legislation.

Thank you once again for your bold leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you to have the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act pass swiftly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell G. Kirch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K".

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.